

## Oil sands plant planned

Alberta Gas Trunk Line Company Limited (AGTL) of Calgary and Petro-Canada have agreed to spend \$100 million during the next two years preparing a formal proposal to build Alberta's fourth oil sands plant, reports Jeff Carruthers in the *Globe and Mail* May 30.

If approved, the plant would be built in the middle or latter part of this decade.

The AGTL-Petrocan operation would be comparable in size to the 130,000-barrel-a-day Syncrude Canada Ltd. oil sands complex in operation and the 140,000-barrel-a-day Alsands project awaiting final governmental approvals. The Alsands project is in the advanced planning stages with production of synthetic oil slated to start in 1990.

Suncor Inc. of Toronto also has a plant near Fort McMurray in northern Alberta.

Costs are estimated at \$10 billion or more for the proposed fourth plant, compared with the latest estimate of \$7 billion for the Alsands plant.

Petrocan and AGTL are undertaking the joint technical and economic feasibility studies with the intention of making a formal application to the Alberta Energy Resources Conservation Board by late 1982, at an initial investment by that time of \$100 million. Petrocan currently has interests in about 127,644 net acres in the Athabasca oil sands.

## Energy agreement signed



*Federal Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Marc Lalonde (right) and Manitoba Energy and Mines Minister Don Craik sign an \$18-million four-year federal-provincial agreement that will provide funds for projects demonstrating the application of energy conservation and renewable energy technologies. The two governments will share equally the eligible costs of projects that demonstrate the potential for energy savings or that encourage the development and adoption of alternative energy sources.*

plinary geological, geophysical and geochemical study of a section of the Precambrian Continental Crust.

Killam Research Fellowships, which provide full or partial salary replacement and fringe benefits but no research funds, were awarded to 13 researchers, while renewals of fellowships were granted to eight other recipients.

Killam Research Associateships, which provide a stipend of up to \$20,000 a year plus some fringe benefits, travel and research costs, were awarded to seven scholars while six others received renewals of associateships.

## Electronics industry boosted

The Federal Government will make \$50 million available over the next three years to assist electronics firms, Industry, Trade and Commerce Minister Herb Gray announced recently at the annual meeting of Canadian Advanced Technology Association (CATA).

Most of the money in the fund will support "exceptional opportunity which might otherwise not be exploited or exploited rapidly enough", said the Minister.

The funds will help firms "undertake large scale investment projects or industry consolidation that will increase electronics research and development activities and production", said Mr. Gray.

The special fund's second component, the Minister said in his speech, is a program designed to encourage application of microelectronic devices to new and existing products.

It will include awareness programs for senior executives of industry, an incentive program to encourage application of microelectronic products to products and processes in all industry sectors, and formation of centres of advanced technology to develop competence in microelectronics.

Mr. Gray also said the Government is committed to use "procurement policy as a positive tool in Canada's industrial development strategy". The Federal Government is a large purchaser of electronics and can promote growth in the industry through its buying policies, he maintained.

The Minister said he is ready to go to Cabinet with a request for more money if the \$50 million proves inadequate, "particularly if these are instances where funding is the only obstacle to the capture of important new opportunities".

## Canada Council announces research awards

The Canada Council recently approved awards totalling over \$1 million to 35 Canadian scientists in the thirteenth annual Killam competition.

The Killam awards are made possible through a bequest of the late Dorothy J. Killam. They are intended to support scholars of exceptional ability engaged in research projects of outstanding merit in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, medicine and engineering and interdisciplinary studies within these fields.

The Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Scholarships in Science, Engineering and Medicine, with a cash value of \$40,000 each, are meant to honour and assist distinguished Canadian scholars. This year's winners are:

- A.E. Litherland, a nuclear physicist

at the University of Toronto, who is working to develop the technique of ultra-sensitive mass spectrometry for carbon 14-dating and detection of other rare isotopes;

- J.M. McKenzie, a McGill University professor of Medicine and senior physician at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal, who will continue his investigation of the receptor-antibody interaction underlying Graves' Disease (hyperthyroidism), using the technique of hydrioma formation;

- D.W. Strangway, a geophysicist at the University of Toronto, who will consolidate his past electromagnetic studies of rocks and minerals into books on the physics and geology of the moon and on the magnetic fields and history of the planets and will undertake a multidisci-